

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An image forming device comprising:
2 storage circuitry configured to store an initial variable configured to
3 control the formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist
4 functions configured to assist replenishment of an imaging consumable;
5 imaging circuitry configured to consume the imaging consumable to
6 form hard images;
7 a sensor configured to monitor a status of the imaging consumable
8 and to output a signal indicative of the status;
9 processing circuitry configured to replace the initial variable with
10 another variable configured to control the formulation of another of the
11 consumable order assist functions, to receive the signal from the sensor, and to
12 formulate the another consumable order assist function responsive to reception of
13 the signal and the another variable; and
14 an interface configured to communicate the another consumable order
15 assist function externally of the image forming device.

1 2. The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a remote
3 query language.

1 3. The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to receive the another variable using a Simple
3 Network Management Protocol.

1 4. The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 imaging circuitry comprises printer circuitry configured to print hard images upon
3 media.

1 6. The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another consumable order assist
3 function comprising an identifier of a purchaser of the imaging consumable, an
4 identifier of the image forming device, and an identifier of the imaging consumable
5 being monitored.

1 7. The image forming device according to claim 1 wherein the
2 processing circuitry is configured to formulate the another consumable order assist
3 function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and an order for the
4 imaging consumable being monitored, and the processing circuitry is configured to
5 forward the order to a predetermined location.

1 8. An image forming system comprising:
2 an image forming device configured to consume an imaging
3 consumable to form hard images, to monitor a status of the imaging consumable,
4 and to store an initial variable configured to control the formulation of an initial one
5 of a plurality of consumable order assist functions configured to assist
6 replenishment of the imaging consumable; and

Case 10003221-1

1 14. The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein the
2 image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable order
3 assist function comprising an identifier of a purchaser of the imaging consumable,
4 an identifier of the image forming device, and an identifier of the imaging
5 consumable being monitored, and the host device is configured to display the
6 identifier of the imaging consumable and the purchaser of the imaging consumable.

1 15. The image forming system according to claim 8 wherein the
2 image forming device is configured to formulate the another consumable order
3 assist function comprising an identifier of the imaging forming device and an order
4 for the imaging consumable being monitored, and the image forming device is
5 configured to forward the order to a predetermined location.

1 16. A method of facilitating ordering of an imaging consumable
2 useable within an image forming device comprising:

3 providing an image forming device configured to use an imaging
4 consumable to form hard images;

5 providing an initial variable within the image forming device to control
6 the formulation of an initial one of a plurality of consumable order assist functions
7 configured to assist replenishment of the imaging consumable;

8 replacing the initial variable with another variable within the image
9 forming device to control the formulation of another of the consumable order assist
10 functions;

11 detecting an amount of the imaging consumable being at a
12 predetermined status; and

13 generating the another one of the consumable order assist functions
14 responsive to the detecting and the replacing.

1 17. The method according to claim 16 further comprising providing
2 the another variable within the image forming device using a remote query
3 language.

1 18. The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing
2 comprises providing an image forming device comprising printer circuitry configured
3 to print images upon media to form hard images.

1 19. The method according to claim 16 wherein the providing the
2 initial variable comprises providing the initial variable to cause the image forming
3 device to formulate the initial consumable order assist function to comprise an
4 identifier of a supplier of the imaging consumable and an identifier of the imaging
5 consumable.

1 20. The method according to claim 16 wherein the generating
2 comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function to comprise
3 an identifier of a purchaser of the imaging consumable, an identifier of the image
4 forming device, and an identifier of the imaging consumable.

1 21. The method according to claim 16 wherein the generating
2 comprises formulating the another consumable order assist function to comprise
3 an identifier of the imaging forming device and an order for the imaging
4 consumable.

1 22. The method according to claim 16 wherein the generating
2 comprises generating using the image forming device.

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